

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DOHA 01220 290854Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAA-01 SP-02 SS-15 INR-10 SES-02
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P 290822Z AUG 78
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3945

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 1220

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PPDC, QA, US
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARTER LETTER TO AMIR OF QATAR

REF: STATE 205978

1. ON THE EVENING OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, AT 10:30 P.M.,
CHARGE RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL AT HOME FROM THE AMIRI PALACE
REQUESTING HIS IMMEDIATE PRESENCE AT THE PALACE.

2. UPON ARRIVAL, I WAS MET BY DR. HASSAN KAMEL (ADVISOR TO THE
AMIR AND DE FACTO FOREIGN MINISTER) AND WAS TOLD THAT THE CROWN
PRINCE AND HEIR APPARENT SHEIKH HAMAD BIN KHALIFA AL THANI WAS
WAITING TO SEE ME. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE SUBJECT OF THE MEETING,
DR. KAMEL SAID THE CROWN PRINCE WANTED TO DELIVER THE AMIR'S
REPLY TO PRESIDENT CARGER'S MESSAGE REGARDING CAMP DAVID SUMMIT.
HE ALSO SAID THAT THE MESSAGE WAS IN ARABIC AND FOR ME TO STOP AT
HIS OFFICE AFTER I FINISHED WITH THE CROWN PRINCE AND WE WOULD
TALK ABOUT THE TRANSLATION.

3. AFTER CHATTING WITH THE CROWN PRINCE FOR ABOUT FIFTEEN
MINUTES ABOUT MORE MUNDANE MATTERS AND ONLY SKIRTING THE FRINGES
OF THE SUMMIT, HE HANDED ME THE REPLY MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT CARTER.

4. UPON LEAVING HIS OFFICE, I WENT TO SEE DR. KAMEL WHO WAS
BUSY WORKING ON THE TRANSLATION OF THE MESSAGE THAT WAS JUST HANDED
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TO ME. HE APOLOGIZED FOR THE DELAY IN ANSWERING PRESIDENT CARTER
AND FOR THE MESSAGE BEING IN ARABIC WITH NO TRANSLATION
ATTACHED. HE STATED THAT NORMALLY THE TRANSLATION WOULD HAVE BEEN
PREPARED BY A COMPETENT UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR BUT DUE TO THE DELAY
HE WAS TRANSLATING HIMSELF TO GET THE EXACT AND APPROPRIATE
INTENT OF THE MESSAGE.

5. DR. KAMEL THEN STARTED ON A LENGTHY DISCOURSE ON THE SUBJECT OF THE SUMMIT AND WHAT IT MEANT TO THE ARAB NATIONS, REAFFIRMING THE DELICACY OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S POSITION AND HOW MUCH HE (SADAT) HAD TO LOSE IF NO POSITIVE (TO THE ARABS) RESULTS WERE GENERATED. HE STATED THAT SADAT WOULD NOT LAST FORTY-EIGHT HOURS "IN HIS CHAIR" WITH NO TELLING WHAT CONSEQUENCES TO THE AREA IF HE COMES OUT OF THE SUMMIT EMPTY-HANDED. HE ALSO REITERATED THE POSITION OF THE ARAB STATES THAT THE ONLY SOLUTION RESTS WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UN RESOLUTION 242 AND THAT THEY WOULD AGREE TO NOTHING LESS.

6. I SAT AND LISTENED TO HIM FOR A GOOD TWENTYMINUTES NOT SAYING A WORD AND WHEN HE FINISHED I REMINDED HIM THAT ONE OF THE PREDOMINANT FACTORS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WAS THE SECURITY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL. I SAID THAT WHEN A PERSON IS BURNT NOT ONLY ONCE BUT TWICE HE CANNOT FORGET IT EASILY AND WOULD TAKE PRECAUTIONS FOR IT NOT TO HAPPEN AGAIN, HENCE THE ISRAELIS' FIRMNESS IN THEIR ATTITUDE. I ALSO TOLD HIM THAT ARAFAT AND HIS ORGANIZATION HAD NOT OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED THE EXISTENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THAT THEY WERE AS MUCH A STUMBLING BLOCK AS ANYTHING ELSE. IN ADDITION, I TOLD HIM, NEGOTIATING A PEACE AGREEMENT WAS A TWO WAY STREET AND THAT BOTH PARTIES SHOULD BE FLEXIBLE. AT THIS POINT, AFTER IGNORING MY FIRST TWO STATEMENTS, DR. KAMEL SAID, VEHEMENTLY, THAT THERE WAS NO WAY FOR SADAT TO MAKE ANY MORE CONCESSIONS THAN HE HAD ALREADY MADE. IT WOULD BE POLITICAL SUICIDE. HE SAID HE WANTED TO REMIND ME THAT ISRAEL HAD NOT YET CONCEDED
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ANYTHING BUT, TO THE CONTRARY, THEY WERE TAKING A BELLIGERENT STAND AND AN EXPANSIONIST ATTITUDE. THEN DR. KAMEL SEEMED TO CALM DOWN AND SAID THAT IF A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES WAS AGREED UPON WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF UN RESOLUTION 242 WITH THE PREDOMINANT CONDITION OF SELF-DETERMINATION WITH THE EVENTUAL ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN STATE ON THE WEST BANK HE SAW NO REASON WHY ANY OF THE ARAB STATES INCLUDING THE PLO WOULD NOT JOIN IN THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

7. BY THEN, IT WAS CLOSE TO MIDNIGHT AND HE CONCLUDED WITH A STATEMENT OF HOPE AND OPTIMISM TOWARDS THE SUMMIT MEETING AND HIS BEST WISHES TO PRESIDENT CARTER ON HIS INITIATIVE. NOT WANTING TO EXTEND THE MEETING ANY LONGER, AS DR. KAMEL TENDS TO BE BERBOSE, I THANKED HIM FOR HIS WISHES AND TOLD HIM OF OUR HOPE IN FINDING A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN THE AREA WITH THE COOPERATION OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED AND THAT WE JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT RESULTS THE SUMMIT AT CAMP DAVID WOULD PRODUCE.

8. COMMENT: THE REPLY MESSAGE FROM THE AMIR IS A FIVE PAGE DOCUMENT AND WILL BE TRANSMITTED UNDER SEPTTEL WHEN TRANSLATED. ORIGINAL ARABIC TEXT IS BEING FORWARDED BY CLASSIFIED POUCH
AUGUST 30, 1978.

JABBOUR

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 29 aug 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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